

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 184303

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNSC, UNGA, KS, KN

SUBJECT: VIETNAMESE/ROK MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS

1. ROK AMBASSADOR HAHM PYONG-CHUN ON INSTRUCTIONS CALLED UPON ASSISTANT SECRETARY BUFFUM AUGUST 4 TO URGE THAT EVERYTHING POSSIBLE BE DONE TO DELAY FORMAL SC CONSIDERATION OF THE VIETNAMESE AND ROK APPLICATIONS AT LEAST UNTIL AFTER LIMA NAC MEETING IN LATE AUGUST HAS ENDED. HE ARGUED THAT GIVEN GENERALLY UNFRIENDLY ATTITUDE OF NON-ALIGNED, THEIR VIEWS ON ROK STRATEGY AT NAC MIGHT BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY NEWS THAT VIETNAMESE EFFORTS TO JOIN UN HAD BEEN LINKED TO ROK APPLICATION.

2. BUFFUM CLARIFIED THAT IMMEDIATE OBJECTIVE OF OUR POLICY WAS TO DELAY FORMAL SC CONSIDERATION BUT THAT EVENTS WERE NOT UNDER OUR CONTROL AND THEREFORE NO GUARANTEE COULD BE MADE. BUFFUM ALSO REVIEWED LATEST SOUNDINGS MADE OF SC MEMBERS, INCLUDING SOVIETS AND CHINESE, AND SAID WE NOW CONFIDENTIAL

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ENCOURAGING THOSE FAVORING JOINT CONSIDERATION OF ALL THREE APPLICATIONS NOT TO ALTER THEIR VIEWS AND TO GET UK TO CO-SPONSOR SINGLE RES INCLUDING ADMISSION OF TWO VIETNAMS AND SOUTH KOREA.

3. REPLYING TO QUERY HAHM SAID HIS LATEST INFO FROM NEW YORK IS THAT COSTA RICA HAS AGREED TO SUPPORT LINKAGE OF ROK

MEMBERSHIP TO THAT OF VIETNAMS. BUFFUM COMMENTED THIS IS GOOD NEWS AND SUGGESTED COSTA RICA MIGHT BE URGED TO SUBMIT RESOLUTION TO SECRETARIAT ALONG THESE LINES BUT ASK THAT IT NOT BE FORMALLY CIRCULATED PRIOR TO SC MEETING. THIS TACTIC, HE EXPLAINED, WILL SERVE NOTICE TO OTHER SIDE THAT THEIR PRESSING FOR EARLY CONSIDERATION OF VIETNAMESE APPLICATIONS MAY LEAD TO UNEXPECTED ROADBLOCK. HOWEVER, HE ADDED, DETAILED TACTICS SHOULD BE WORKED OUT WITH USUN IN NEW YORK.

4. RESPONDING TO ANOTHER QUERY, HAHM ARGUED THAT IMPACT OF MEMBERSHIP FIGHT ON KOREAN ITEM IN UNGA PROBABLY WOULD NOT BE HARMFUL AS NORTH KOREA'S UNREASONABLE POSITION WOULD BE EXPOSED TO ENTIRE UN MEMBERSHIP. PERHAPS, HE SAID, IT MIGHT EVEN BE HELPFUL IN CONTRAST TO THE EXPECTED ADVERSE IMPACT IN LIMA.

5. IN CLOSING, HAHM WONDERED WHETHER THE SOVIETS OR CHINESE SEEMED TO BE PUSHING THE VIETNAMESE APPLICATIONS. BUFFUM SAID THE SOURCE OF THIS INITIATIVE WAS UNCLEAR BUT IT WAS CERTAIN THAT BOTH WERE GIVING FULL POLITICAL SUPPORT TO THE VIETNAMS AND NORTH KOREA. KISSINGER

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